

# DECEMBER 2019

## NEWS LETTER

A Mission of Mercy




### RACE

Romanian Animal Care Europe

Back in early December while Elena was at the Kill Shelter collecting Nora, her five puppies and the other six puppies that had tragically had been incarcerated ... she spotted a tiny dog in the end cage - shivering with cold and fright - she was absolutely terrified. Her eyes pleaded with Elena for help ... you can guess the rest ...



Nina

 This is mum, Nora, and her four week old (at the time of rescue) puppies. We have two little girls, Lia and Beatrix and three handsome boys, Beau, Ben and Simon. Nora was not the most attentive mum and a lot was left to Elena to hand rear the pups. We dread to think of how many litters this little lady has had over the years.



Nora

Beatrix

Lia

Simon

Beau

Ben

Within the space of 48 hours, we had twelve precious babies out of the shelter safely back at Elena's home.

Nina, a tiny Peke crossbreed, is eight years old and we think she could tell us a tale or two if only she could speak. Less than 24 hours after introducing this little angel, she had the offer of a lovely home.; we had the feeling she'd be snapped up pretty soon. Who could resist? Nina was a whisker away from being put to sleep ... now she has a safe and happy life ahead of her.

Beatrix became quite ill—a mixture of a virus and the bellyful of worms she had, despite being treated. Thankfully, she made a recovery, but then Beau became sick and, despite every intervention and treatment possible, the little pup lost his fight for life. Ben went down next and was so close to death, but thankfully he survived. Siblings Lia and Simon also fell ill with Parvo coupled with a heavy worm burden and, so sadly, didn't make it.; Elena spent so much time nursing them in isolation and doing everything she could. **SEE OUR ARTICLE ON NEXT PAGE RE THE DANGERS OF WORMS IN YOUR PUPPIES.**

### Sad Beginnings, Happy Endings

Three month old Carpathian cross siblings, Alexis, Casper, Thea and Pearl, had been caught by the dogcatchers and ended up in the Kill Shelter. Word got to Elena and all four were taken by her back to the safety of her home. All four have beautiful temperaments and will make the most amazing family pets. Rescued from a situation with no hope to a bright new future ahead. All four were very quickly snapped up by various families who offered this precious mites forever homes.



Alexi

Casper

Thea

Pearl



RACE takes on so many abandoned puppies and, while all very cute in the photos we post on Facebook for our supporters, the hard work and worry behind the scenes for these vulnerable little mites is a continuous nightmare. We never offer any puppy for adoption until they are over the first couple of inoculations .... Why? Because in all truthfulness, they are so frail at this stage, particularly so abandoned puppies from street dogs that have had such an appalling start in life, that we need to get them over what we call the "danger period". Let us explain ...



For any dog, intestinal worms are a real concern. Infections that would be unlikely to make an adult dog sick can kill a puppy. Roundworm infections are the most common intestinal parasitic worm infection in pups. Roundworm infections can cause pneumonia, intestinal obstruction, pot-bellied appearance, vomiting, and diarrhoea. One of the major sources of roundworm infection for puppies is the mother's milk. Roundworm larvae may be present in the mother's mammary glands and milk throughout the

nursing period. Once your pup is infected, the larvae migrate to the liver and lungs. Once they are in the lungs they can cause respiratory disease. Roundworms can kill a number of ways; (1) They can simply reproduce until the poor pup can't get any nutrients, wastes away and dies. (2) They can die in huge numbers and block the intestinal tract, causing a rupture if not surgically remedied. (3) They can actually make their way into other organs in some cases, causes massive organ failure. (4) They can actually make the puppy strain so hard to poop they cause their heart to stop.

Now add Parvovirus to this lethal mix - The last thing any new puppy owner or dog breeder wants to hear is a diagnosis of Parvo. Parvo in puppies is unfortunately a common disease with deadly consequences, which is why it is important for anyone dealing with puppies on a regular basis to be aware of the symptoms of Parvo and what to do about it. Parvo in puppies is caused by the canine Parvovirus. This virus is highly contagious and spreads through direct contact with an infected dog or by indirect contact with a contaminated object. The virus is classed as a disease of the stomach and small intestines, as this is where the virus does the most damage. The virus prefers to infect the small intestine, where it destroys cells, impairs absorption, and disrupts the gut barrier. Parvo in puppies also affects the bone marrow and lymphopoietic tissues, and in some cases can also affect the heart. Puppies ages six weeks to six months are the most susceptible to Parvo. Puppies younger than six-weeks-old still retain some of their mother's antibodies, assuming that the dam received her full series of Parvo vaccinations. Puppies are vaccinated against Parvo at approximately 6, 8, and 12 weeks of age. They are vulnerable to the disease until they have received all three shots in their vaccination series, which means owners need to take extra precaution during this time to prevent their puppies from contracting the virus. Puppies should receive a dose of canine Parvovirus vaccine between 14 and 16 weeks of age, regardless of how many doses they received earlier, to develop adequate protection. Of course, with the dogs that we rescue in Romania, none of the dogs we and other rescues help, are vaccinated against this. The severity of Parvo cases varies. The stress of weaning can lead to a more severe case of Parvo in puppies, as stress weakens the immune system. A combination of Parvo and a secondary infection or a parasite can also lead to a more severe case of Parvo in puppies.

If we lose a puppy, and believe us it's not for want of trying to help them survive, it is, 99.9% of the time, due to Parvo or worms or a combination of both.. Elena, with the help of her youngest son, Rares, puts so much time into caring and nursing these babies; without their special brand of care, there is very little doubt that they would all die. We will, as always, strive our very best to rescue, rehabilitate, nurse and, eventually, rehome the dogs. But please do spare a thought of what is going on behind the scenes at times and try to support our work in any way that you can. Thank you.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP



There are so many ways our supporters can help us to continue helping the dogs in need. Just a little bit from everyone makes a HUGE difference.

SPONSOR £10 per month towards dog/puppy/cat food - Hold a COFFEE MORNING - SHARE the RACE Facebook posts

Organise a CAKE SALE at work or amongst your friends and neighbours

Visit our AMAZON WISHLIST and donate a gift of food - Knit BLANKETS and DOG COATS

Become an EMERGENCY BACK UP FOSTERER - Make a DONATION

\*\*\*\*\*

Our Paypal is  
[popabrandusaelena@yahoo.com](mailto:popabrandusaelena@yahoo.com)



*Darcy*

Darcy is just three years old and has lived in a rescue shelter for two whole years. RACE offered to take her on and find her a forever home where she can receive one to one love and attention.



Darcy is one of the friendliest, gentlest, sociable girls ever. We were delighted when an offer of a kind and caring home was offered to our girl. She'll be joining her new UK family in early January 2020. **HAPPY LIFE BABY GIRL**

## CALLING ALL RACE ADOPTANTS ...

Did you know we now have a dedicated RACE Facebook where you can write about the progress of your little (or big!) darling and post photos, share information, stuff to make us smile ... You can boast how clever your pooch is (member of doggy MENSA, winner of The X Factor, Crufts Champion, Canine Mastermind, etc.) Just go to the page (RACE Romanian Animal Care Europe Adopters Forum) ask to join the group ... and hey presto ... you're all set to go.

## THIS IS A CLOSED GROUP FOR ADOPTANTS OF RACE DOGS ONLY

the road, obviously lost and in some distress. He was all too ready to get into the warmth of her car and he was soon back at her home, being fed and watered. It was obvious he was an older boy; he had no microchip so she was unable to stand any chance of locating a possible owner. We posted him on the RACE Facebook page and almost immediately Elena was contacted by someone who thought this was their dog who, she was told, had been stolen. The dog in question was not the one in our care, as he was much younger than this fellow. The following day Elena took him to the veterinary hospital for a complete checkover; tests revealed that Chopper had impaired liver function, heart issues, cataracts and arthritis in his back legs. He was also entire. The vet estimated that Chopper was at least twelve years old and probably wouldn't be too long for this World given his age and ailments. We had the offer of the most wonderful home for Chopper in the UK, but he was too old and unfit to travel. He is happy at Elena's and there he will live to the end of his days. Chopper is on supplements to assist his liver function and is quite happy living in the Popa household which is now his forever home.



Thanks to the recent works on the kennelling, we're now in a much better position to help more dogs in need. You may remember some weeks back that we ran an Appeal for much needed repair works on the back kennelling area. The unforgiving Romanian winter and flooding caused untold damage over the years. The situation was severely affecting the dogs that needed to come into our care ... fast toward ... Thanks to donations and a couple of kind benefactors, the works are completed. From a muddy area with collapsed drains, leaking kennels to ... dah dah ... this! Elena is, understandably, delighted as it makes her work just that teeniest bit easier. Thank you everyone who helped to make the works possible.



## Chopper

Driving home one evening from yet another trip to the Veterinary Hospital in St George, Elena saw a Golden Retriever slowly wandering along



## I AM A FOREVER DOG - NOT AN "UNTIL" DOG

I'm not an "UNTIL YOU GET BORED WITH ME" dog

I'm not an "UNTIL YOU FIND A NEW GIRLFRIEND/BOYFRIEND" dog

I'm not an "UNTIL YOU HAVE A BABY" dog

I'm not an "UNTIL YOU MOVE" dog

I'm not an "UNTIL YOU HAVE NO TIME" dog

I'm not an "UNTIL I GET OLD" dog

I'm a FOREVER DOG  
If you can give me forever,  
then I'm NOT your dog



IT'S REALLY THAT SIMPLE





Nora

*See Nora's story on our front page of this December Newsletter.* We found that Nora was not too keen on other dogs or animals, but adored people and loved to be centre of attention. Given the rough life she's had until we rescued her from the kill shelter, we are amazed that she likes humans at all! She wasn't a particularly attentive mum to her dear puppies, but we would imagine that she spent her entire seven years producing litter after litter ... if only she could tell us what she's been through, although we can pretty much hazard a guess and none of it good. We promoted Nora for adoption, and the most amazing opportunity of a home came up for her in the form of a residential care home in the North East of the UK. Nora will be in her absolute element at being Queen Bee of the home, which is in the most beautiful of settings. Talk about from Rags to Riches. We have the distinct feeling that this will be the perfect life for our girl with around 40 residents and the staff making a fuss of her!



Veteran Kangal dog, Lady, was found wandering on the streets a year and a half ago. She was in a terrible state of neglect as well as having skin problems and a deformity of her back legs, caused possibly by a poor diet. Elena keeps on top of Lady's health issues as well as giving her supplements to strengthen her bones - albeit that she's a golden oldie now. But it doesn't stop this gorgeous girl having a good quality of life at Elena's where she will live for the rest of her days.



Lady



Daisy

Dear Daisy was days away from being euthanised in one of the Romanian Public Shelters (aka kill shelter). It was evident that she had been hit by operatives at this particular place as they have an atrocious reputation for ill treating the poor dogs that are unfortunate enough to find their way there. Simply bullies and cowards to treat any defenceless creature in this manner. To top this cruelty, Daisy was made to share a cage with a very dominant female GSD who made poor Daisy's life more miserable than it already was. She was so scared of everyone and everything when she came out of there. Elena has spent the past two months teaching Daisy to trust humans again; it's actually



men that most of these dogs are terrified of. Daisy was initially very wary of Rares, Elena's youngest son, but she has learned that he would never do her any harm and she now reciprocates the love he gives her. Daisy is learning slowly to embrace life and we are now looking for that special family who can give six year old Daisy the love and care she deserves.

## LOOKING TO ADOPT?



If you are looking for a rescue dog or puppy, then please do check out our FACEBOOK page, as we regularly update on our precious babies who are looking for their forever homes. ALL dogs are fully assessed before they are offered for adoption. If you are interested in adopting any of our adopted dogs, please email us at [raceromanian@gmail.com](mailto:raceromanian@gmail.com) with a completed Adoption Application form. This can be downloaded, along with our Adoption Procedures, from our website at [www.raceromanian.org](http://www.raceromanian.org). If you have any queries about any of our dogs, please contact us via email at [raceromanian@gmail.com](mailto:raceromanian@gmail.com). We're always happy to assist.

**PLEASE READ THE ADOPTION PROCEDURES BEFORE APPLYING TO ADOPT. THESE COVER THE WHOLE PROCESS, STEP BY STEP, INCLUDING SCALE OF ADOPTION FEES.**





Raisa

Raisa, a Carpathian cross, came into our care on 20 December. She was just three months old at the time. This little sweetheart was discovered in a village not too far from Elena's – living under a car – all alone. What on earth happened to her mum and whether she had any siblings, no one knows. Someone was feeding her when they could, but were unable to take her into their home as they had poorly pups they were already nursing, and didn't want to risk Raisa catching anything from them and becoming ill too. Elena received a phone call from the lady concerned, and asked her to bring the pup to her immediately, which she did.

Raisa was soooooo hungry when she arrived, but had soon tucked into some good food, was defleaed, wormed and vaccinated; and settled down for the night in a comfortable warm bed. She is such a happy girl and so very gentle. Raisa would make the perfect family addition and, we're happy to say, she has already been reserved by a UK family and will be travelling to her new home in January.



Thankfully, it's a very rare occurrence where we have needed emergency foster back up cover, but we do like to be prepared for all eventualities. We are currently looking for experienced people to join our register "just in case" their services are needed.

Home check and references applies in all cases.



Can I crash on your sofa for a while?

#### COULD YOU BE AN EMERGENCY BACK UP FOSTERER?

Please email us at [raceromanian@gmail.com](mailto:raceromanian@gmail.com) if you can offer your help to a dog in need.

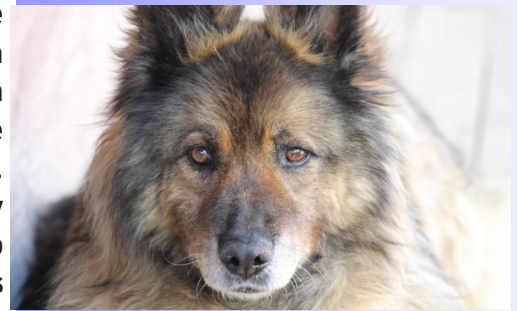


Kim and Tessa

Chihuahua crossbreeds, Kim and Tessa has been abandoned on a field; both extremely ill and suffering from Parvovirus. We estimate them to have been born around mid-October 2019. We thank heaven that they both managed to fight the dreaded illness and make a recovery. When we advertised for homes for our girls, we were secretly hoping that someone would

offer for them to go together ... and they did! Needless to say, it made our day. We wish Kim and Tessa all the happiness in the World and hope they have many happy years together with their new family.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



**WHERE ARE YOU BASED?** Brasov, Romania.

**CAN I MEET THE DOG BEFORE I CONSIDER REHOMING?** In short - no. Our dogs are rescued by Elena Popa of RACE, who has many, many years of experience in this field. The dogs are all fostered at her home in order that they can be socialised if required as well as being thoroughly assessed before we offer for adoption.

**HOW DO I APPLY TO ADOPT?** Every adoption post has the information at the bottom on how to apply. This is done via our website.

**CAN YOU GIVE ME INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION PROCESS?** Again, at the end of each post it states that the full Adoption Procedures can be found on our website. This covers the whole process, step by step. It also includes the adoption fee scale.

**IS THE DOG STILL AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION?** If the post is headed with "Available for Adoption" then yes. We will always mark a dog as "Reserved" once we have started the adoption process with a successful applicant.

**I HAVE SENT IN MY ADOPTION APPLICATION BUT HAVEN'T BEEN CONTACTED YET.**

We respond as soon as possible to successful applicants - but remember - we do get very caught up dealing with emergencies, vet visits, nursing, cleaning, feeding, trying to raise funds, home checking, interviews etc. We ask people to understand that we simply do not have the time to respond to those applications that are unsuccessful in our selection process.



# ROMANIAN MOUNTAIN DOG BREEDS

crosses than any of the other three ... although of course, we do come across them too. We thought a little piece about each breed might interest you.. Many of you lovely people have been through the application and adoption process so we hope you can also understand why, at times, we will only rehome these breeds to experienced doggy homes:

## ROMANIAN CARPATHIAN SHEPHERD



A Romanian working dog developed many hundreds of years ago deep in the secluded Carpathian Mountains,. Large and wolf-like, this

dog makes a fantastic herder, as well as a diligent watch dog. They are renowned for their bravery, tackling any predator that tries to invade their territory, often fighting them off in packs.

While still used primarily as a working dog today, they are becoming increasingly common as a family pet within Romania. This is an independent and high-energy dog, though one that can bond closely with family members if given the time. Firm leadership and consistent exercise are both needed to ensure a well-balanced dog within the home, as failure to provide a suitable and stable environment will almost certainly result in a difficult to control animal with behavioural issues.

***All of them are big sized breeds, powerful and rustic dogs, which were used to protect and herd flocks***

## RAVEN SHEPHERD DOG (CORB SHEPHERD)



The Raven Shepherd, or Corb Shepherd (corb = raven in Romanian) is a big dog which took shape in Meridional Carpathian and Sub-Carpathian areal. Its name comes from its fur which is black intense, as the raven colour. It's a big and beautiful dog, powerful and not heavy (it has to be fast in movements). Its fur has two coats with thick hair and at least 80% from its hair is black. It could have a white spot on its chest in a rhombus shape. During the summer, if

it stays too much in sun, its fur can have reddish shades. It is jolly and a playful companion for kids. It is intelligent and calm, submissive to its master and his family, and have a great courage towards the potential predators (lynx, bear, wolves). It is a good companion on mountains trips, nimble, a great watchdog for houses and herds. It has a very powerful and deep bark which can be heard from long distances.

We often have rescue mountain breeds and mountain crossbreeds looking for forever homes ... predominantly we seem to acquire more Carpathian / Carpathian

Used for centuries to guard livestock in its homeland of Romania, the Mioritic Sheepdog is a typical Livestock Guarding Dog (LGD). Loyal, reliable,

independent, and fiercely protective, he is friendly and devoted to his family but very mistrusting of strangers. It is a large dog with long coat which requires regular grooming, and with any dog of this size and temperament requires daily exercise and basic obedience training. Mioritics are lively and stubborn but in spite of all their independence they are very sensitive creatures in their furry armour. As puppies they stick to the pack which has accepted them. This can be any kind of creature – dog, cat, horse, sheep, the Mioritic needs very close family ties; a house without doors it thinks would be ideal. Its favourite place is always very close to its favourite person. It determines its resting place itself. This may even be the couch or a carpet not suitable for dogs, but as a rule shepherds, even as puppies, prefer to sleep on hard ground. They need no dog baskets, no special mattresses and by no means an allocated place. No “work creating” program is necessary but daily walks and hikes provide exciting variation.

## ROMANIAN MIORTIC SHEPHERD



The Bucovina Shepherd is an extremely rare breed of dog that is not well known outside of Romania. Thought to have been developed around the time of the ancient Roman Empire, this breed was mainly used as a guard dog and a ferocious protector of livestock. With its impressive size and deep, powerful bark, the Bucovina Shepherd easily scared away the hungry wolves and bears that roamed the Romanian mountains. Its thick coat

and long muzzle set it apart from other Mastiff type breeds, and the Bucovina Shepherd also tends to be lighter than its closest relations. Bred to be constantly on patrol, this dog has fantastic endurance, and would not be suited to apartment life. Forming strong bonds with its family members, the loyal Bucovina Shepherd can be gentle and affectionate with the children it has been brought up with, but due to its suspicion of strangers, must not be trusted with people it does not know.

## BUCOVINA SHEPHERD DOG







**Livia** Livia had been captured by the dogcatchers and ended up in the Kill Shelter. The pup was just three months old at the time. Word got to Elena and Livia was soon safely settled at Elena's home. This sweet girl was so very underweight when she left the shelter; we dread to think of the horrors she had already endured in her short life. Liv is very gentle, adores a fuss and is very affectionate. A little shy, of

course, until she knows you but then you'll get plenty of kisses. Our baby girl joins her new family in bonny Scotland in January 2020.

If you would like to make a contribution towards the rehabilitation of any of our dogs while we are preparing to offer them for adoption ...  
You can donate via Paypal at the address below

[popabrandusaelena@yahoo.com](mailto:popabrandusaelena@yahoo.com)



**Jack**

Jack was just a year old when he was abandoned by his owners who moved away. Since that time, he has lived in a shelter for TWO WHOLE YEARS; the future looked bleak - in fact he didn't appear to have a future other than being stuck in the shelter for the rest of his days. This dear little lad had also been bullied by some of the other dogs hence the scars all over his dear sweet face. Elena took Jack on earlier in December so that we could find him the loving home he deserves. He is so gentle, a perfect family dog, and is 100% cat friendly. We didn't think it would take too long to find him the perfect home and had quite a few applications— all very worthy of a dog - but we have to consider which applicant best matches the dog in question. Jack will be joining his new UK mum in January 2020. Happy days ahead now for this boy who had experienced nothing but bad luck for the first few years of his life.



**Pepitta**

This dear little soul was days away from being euthanised in one of the Romanian Public Shelters (aka kill shelter). Pepitta is around eight months old. It was evident that she had been hit by operatives at this particular place as they have an atrocious reputation for ill treating the poor dogs that are unfortunate enough to find their way there. Simply bullies and cowards to treat any defenceless creature in this manner.

Elena has spent the past two months teaching Pepitta to trust humans again; it's actually men that most of these dogs are terrified of. Pepitta was initially really fearful of Rares, Elena's

youngest son, but she found that he had nothing but kindness to offer her - she now adores him. We are now seeking a forever home for our little girl. If you are interested in adopting Pepitta, please submit an Adoption Application via our website at [www.raceromanian.org](http://www.raceromanian.org). Please read the Adoption Procedures which are also on the website before applying.



Vă doresc tuturor un An Nou fericit,  
sănătos și pașnic - Echipa RACE